Tule Lake Unit
WWII Valor in the Pacific National Monument

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Exciting Developments This Summer at the Tule Lake Unit

The summer season is in full swing at the Tule Lake Unit! Just as in past summers, Tule Lake Unit staff are stationed at the Tulelake-Butte Valley Fairgrounds. There, visitors can talk to a ranger, visit the local history museum, and read more about the Tule Lake Segregation Center.

The regular Saturday summer tours of the monument began Memorial Day Weekend and will run through Labor Day. This year, the tours are broken into two separate programs, with the Segregation Center tour in the morning and the Camp Tulelake tour in the afternoon. This allows rangers to delve deeper into the histories of both sites and gives visitors a chance to a take a break, eat lunch, and rest their feet between programs.

In addition to the Saturday site tours, the Tule Lake Unit is now offering public tours of Castle Rock, also known as the Peninsula, for the first time since the establishment of the monument. This new program, which makes a loop around North Crater, allows visitors to view the Tule Lake Basin from a rarely seen perspective while observing wildlife and experiencing this historic landscape up close.

A view of Newell, CA, where the Tule Lake Segregation Center once stood, taken from North Crater. This summer, the Tule Lake Unit began running tours on North Crater for the first time. (NPS Photo)

Meet the New Superintendent of the Tule Lake Unit: Larry Whalon

Larry arrived in early June to take on the role of Acting Superintendent at the Tule Lake Unit and at Lava Beds National Monument, and he has been selected as superintendent of both parks permanently. "I look forward to the challenge of standing up the Tule Lake Unit," Larry says. "The story of segregation is extremely important, and our role in telling that story at this site is critical." Larry recently served as the Deputy Superintendent at Mojave Preserve for the past seven years.

Visitation at the Tule Lake Unit has been strong all summer, with particularly busy days around Memorial Day and July 4th, and has exceeded daily numbers from last year. Tours have been popular and busy, with several of the Saturday tours reaching capacity. On the 4th of July Weekend, rangers added a special Sunday site tour because the regular Saturday program filled up so quickly. With the second half of the season ahead of us, we are excited to continue our strong engagement with the public!

Ranger Kenneth Doutt holds up a historic map of the Tule Lake Segregation Center during the Art of Survival Bike Ride in May. (NPS Photo)

Tule Lake Unit rangers have also participated in several local events this summer. In May, rangers and volunteers staffed various stops at the Art of Survival Bike Ride, including at the Tule Lake Unit Segregation Center Jail. Nearly 200 riders participated in this annual event, which includes rides of up to 108 miles and is organized by the Malin Historical Society.

In mid-July, at the Lava Beds National Monument Junior Ranger Day, Tule Lake Unit rangers held a special booth that gave children the opportunity to learn about life at the Tule Lake Segregation Center. One of the activities was making flowers out of pipe cleaners, which served as a means to talk about the resilience and resourcefulness of those who were incarcerated at Tule Lake and the other relocation centers.

For information on attending any of the Tule Lake Unit programs, please call our visitor contact station at (530) 260-0537.

Ranger Kenneth Doutt demonstrates how to make a pipe cleaner flower at Junior Ranger Day (NPS Photo)

Meet Your Tule Lake Unit Rangers!

Kenneth Doutt

Into his third season working at the Tule Lake Unit, Kenneth is excited to continue learning about and presenting this history to the public. At the beginning of August, he is heading to New York City to take a course on immigration in the United States through the Gilder Lehrman Institute, an opportunity and challenge he is excited to take on!

Mikito Muroya

Serving an internship through the American Conservation Experience at the Tule Lake Unit, Mikito is glad to have an opportunity to further study the history of this site and obtain some experience working with the National Park Service.

Celebrating the NPS Centennial

A family holds up the Find Your Park poster and NPS Centennial logo after attending a tour at Camp Tulelake. (NPS Photo)

The Tule Lake Unit joins parks across the country in celebrating the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the National Park Service. While 2016 is the official centennial year, parks have already begun to host commemorative events and programs, and you've likely seen centennial posters and merchandise. Over the next several months, staff at the Tule Lake Unit will be planning and finalizing centennial programs at the monument that are aimed at achieving the centennial goal of connecting with and creating the next generation of park visitors, supporters, and advocates. For more information on the NPS Centennial, check out http://www.nps.gov/centennial and to discover what you can do in national parks, visit www.FindYourPark.com.